


REFERENCE



COLLECTIONS





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MARK TWAIN'S SCRAP BOOK.

PATENTS:

UNITED STATES.

JUNE 24TH, 1873.

GREAT BRITAIN.

MAY 16TH, 1877.

FRANCE.

MAY 18TH, 1877.

TRADE MARKS:

UNITED STATES.

REGISTERED No. 5,896.

GREAT BRITAIN.

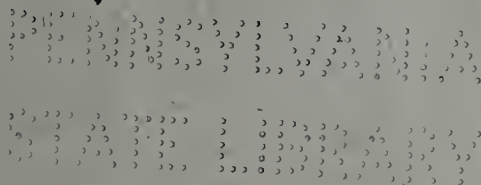
REGISTERED No. 15,979.

DIRECTIONS.

Use but little moisture, and only on the gummed lines. Press the scrap on without wetting it.

DANIEL SLOTE & COMPANY,

NEW YORK.





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From, *Inquirer*
Phila. Par.
Date, *July 11th 1891.*

A Lesson From History.

More than 2000 years ago, when the city of Rome was rising by the banks of the Tiber, there took place one of the most remarkable strikes in history. The plebs, as the laboring classes of the city were called, became dissatisfied because their wages were poor and their social condition unsatisfactory for many reasons and particularly because they had no voice in the government of which they formed so large and important a part. Other measures failing, they marched out of the city to a man and established themselves on Mons Sacer, a hill near the city, and announced their intention of starving rather than continuing in their previous condition.

A Committee of Arbitration went out from the city, which was depending on the work of the plebs and rehearsed the fable of the War of the Body. It seems that on one occasion, so the fable goes, the various members of the body fell out with each other, each claiming to be overworked at the expense of the rest. The legs complained that they had to carry the whole body, and it made them tired. The arms complained that they had to do most of the work to get the food which kept the whole body alive. The stomach complained that it had to digest all the food and keep constantly at it, while all were particularly aggrieved at the head, which did nothing but think and get all the enjoyment. The head replied that it was true it had to think but that without its planning all the other members would soon die; that it was true the legs carried the body and that the arms did most of the work, but that they got the benefit of the stomach's work of digestion and the head's thinking; that each had to work and that all were dependent on each other; that nature had distributed the labor and the rest about equally, and they had better go to work again or all would die. This seemed so sensible that all agreed, and there was no trouble afterwards.

This fable was taken to heart by the plebs, who returned to Rome, were given popular representation and the grandeur of the great Empire resulted.

The fable is quite applicable to the declared intention of the union labor leaders to call out all their men on strike, as an attempt to coerce capital into compelling PULLMAN to arbitrate with his men. While the arbitration question is one of importance, and is discussed elsewhere in these columns, that of a sympathetic strike is an entirely different one. At this time a general labor strike is as senseless as the revolt of the legs against the other members of the body. While every man has an unquestioned right to quit work when dissatisfied, he must not prevent others from taking his place. Usually there is such attempt to prevent, and then comes rioting, then the majesty of the law in the shape of the military.

While we believe that much of the rioting in Chicago was by the rabble who never worked on the railroads, yet much of it was done by the strikers who led the mobs. This will not do.

If the men who quit work to-day think they are upholding a great principle we fear they will find themselves mistaken. They can do more for the cause of labor by remaining at work and agitating in a peaceful way for needed reforms. At least ninety-nine per cent. of us are laboring men. It is not likely that the one per cent. who live on the interest of their money can coerce the ninety-nine per cent. There are many evils in society which need correcting, but the means of reaching that end is not in the secession of laboring men who are dissatisfied. Those who go out to-day may fancy that they are the laboring men of the country. They will form only a small fraction of them. They can but injure themselves and the cause they make such sacrifices to maintain.

The old fable has many lessons for the present day. The arms, legs and stomach cannot get along without the head, neither can the head get along without the rest. Instead of warring they should endeavor to live in peace with each other and strive for mutual prosperity.

It is true that many are unfortunate, that many suffer want. It is the duty of the prosperous to help these. But there are few persons so situated that honesty, sobriety, industry and intelligence will not surely improve their condition. It is the blessing of this country that there is no wealth or station which the honest man may not achieve. It is true that some men gain wealth by dishonesty, just as many more reach

poverty by dishonesty, but the thing to be done is to punish all wrongs and work everywhere at all times to uphold the right—not to attempt by foolish or revolutionary measures to overturn the laws of society, which are the result of centuries of experience, imperfect though they may be in some details.

As to Arbitration.

THE INQUIRER is a firm believer in the principle of arbitration, whether applied to personal or international difficulties. In this age of progress peaceful methods ought everywhere to obtain. It seems to us that the railroad managers are quite right in refusing to arbitrate, since they have no difficulty with their own employes and are in nowise empowered to act for the Pullman Company.

But with the Pullman Company it is different. The men claimed that the reduction in their wages, unaccompanied by a lowering of living expenses, made it impossible for them to live in any kind of comfort. The Pullman Company, through its officers, replied that they were operating their works at a loss, and could not raise wages. A strike followed and the works closed.

Here was a chance for arbitration. A distinct issue of fact was made and no possible harm could have resulted from referring the disputed points to a disinterested committee to discover the truth. If the men were making living wages they could soon discover the fact. If the Pullman Company was making a large profit, they could have discovered that fact. If the Pullman people were positive of their position they should have had no objection to submitting their proofs. A corporation differs from an individual employer. The officers of the Pullman Company are simply the trustees of several thousand stockholders, who collectively own the property of the company. These officers, we think, would have been entirely justified in arbitrating the differences with their men, who would probably have acceded to the award of the arbitrators even if it went against them. But, of course, arbitrators could not have compelled the company to continue work, whatever the result of the investigation. Still it would have helped matters greatly.

We also think the Pullman employes made a mistake in not conferring with Vice-President WICKES, who waited for them in vain several hours on Sunday. Every peaceable means ought to have been exhausted on both sides before a strike took place, for the results

of a strike affect society in general as well as the particular men who go out. Just how much responsibility belongs on each side of the dispute we do not know, for we are not familiar with all the facts, but we are firm in the conviction that all peaceful means should have been exhausted, and that arbitration might have averted the trouble.

The action of the American Railway Union, however, is an entirely different matter. The strike seems to us foolish and unjustifiable, while the rioting which followed cannot be too strongly condemned. Mr. DEBS may think he is the prophet of the laboring man, but he has proved to be the apostle of anarchy. It is useless for him to try and escape responsibility. He started the whole movement and death and destruction have resulted. Anarchy has spread through various parts of the country and the majesty of the law is maintained by the bayonet.

Mr. DEBS seems to think that the "capitalistic press" is the especial champion of Mr. PULLMAN. On the contrary, we think there is very little sympathy for Mr. PULLMAN anywhere. His personality is not a figure in the contest. We do not care whether he is worth 25 cents or \$25,000,000. We look only at the issues in the contest. We do not uphold lawlessness in a corporation any more than we uphold violence by strikes. We are aware that the Pullman Company has made very large profits for years, and has a virtual monopoly of its branch of business, for which patrons pay a good round sum. We do not, however, see that this is an issue in the riotous scenes at Chicago or the threatened general labor strike.

If the Pullman Company is lawless, it should be brought to book; if extortionate, other peaceful means should be used to remedy it, but all the violence of all the mobs in the country will not make another wrong right. We regret that the company has refused arbitration. Possibly it thought it would seem like condoning the violence of railway men. This is not true. For all the violence and damage done by the strikers we have not a word of excuse, but the strongest condemnation, even though it was done in the main by ignorant men under bad leaders. The law, which is liberty, must be upheld if it takes every resource of the government.

The utter refusal of the Pullman Company to arbitrate the issues with its late employes is unfortunate, but it is no excuse for the railway strike or the general labor strike to be inaugurated to-day.

